

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Regarding the 35 U.S.C. Section 112, first paragraph, rejections, Applicant notes that a conduit is well-known to have an interior and an exterior and such a fact need not be disclosed in the specification in order for the claims to meet the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. Section 112. At any rate, recitations of an “interior” and “exterior” have been removed from the claims since new limitations are being used.

The present claims include limitations not disclosed by nor made obvious in view of the prior art. For example, claim 35 is the only remaining independent claim and it recites “a plurality of sensors fixedly coupled to the conduit, wherein the sensors include sensors of first and second types”.

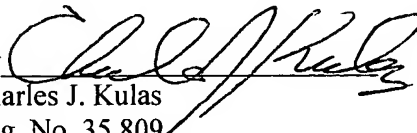
Hall does not show any sensors at all “fixedly coupled to the conduit.” Adkins shows only one type of sensor, a “moisture activated sensor valve 50”. Adkins at col. 4, lines 7-8. Thus, the limitation of “first and second types” of sensors is not shown in the prior art. Use of additional sensors is not made obvious by Hall or Adkins since each of these references uses global types of sensing where one sensor is used to control dispensing of a material over all plants in the system. See, e.g., Adkins Fig. 1 where valve 50 controls a valve that is used to dispense water to all dispensing tubes 60.

Claim 35 also requires that the sensors be “fixedly coupled to the conduit at intervals so that each sensor corresponds with a group of one or more plants in the vegetation when the conduit is deployed” (emphasis added). Both Adkins and Hall teach away from such an approach since each use of a sensor in Hall or Adkins is to control distribution of a material to many plants regardless of the deployment of a conduit. In the present invention, two types of sensors are fixedly coupled to a conduit and are used to “control conveyance of the substance to the particular sensor’s corresponding group of one or more plants”.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly sought. The undersigned may be contacted at the telephone number below at the Examiner's convenience if it would help in the prosecution of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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